

**SUPPLEMENTARY APPLICATION RELATING TO THE GENERIC NAME  
"OSMERUS" LINNAEUS, 1758 (CLASS ACTINOPTERYGII)**

By **FRANCIS HEMMING**, C.M.G., C.B.E.,

*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*

(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 564)

(For the application in this case see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 11 : 281—282)

When I recently submitted to the International Commission proposals for the rectification of an error in *Opinion 77* relating to the generic name *Osmerus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Class Actinopterygii) I found it necessary to report that I was not then in a position to submit a recommendation on the family-group-name aspect of that case. I added that I would do so in due course.

2. In the interval which has since elapsed I have had an opportunity of investigating this matter with the assistance of Mr. Denys W. Tucker, B.Sc. (*Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History), London.*)

3. It appears that the first time that the word OSMERIDAE appeared in print was in 1913 in the volume of the *Zoological Record* for the year 1912 (49 : Pisces 35). The editor of the Pisces section of the *Zoological Record* at that time was C. T. Regan and it must be assumed that it was he who was responsible for the introduction of this at that time unpublished family name as a heading in the Pisces section of this literature-recording serial. The only requirement, apart from due publication, required to provide a family-group name with the status of availability is that it should be based upon the name of its type genus. While there cannot be any doubt that the name OSMERIDAE as used by Regan in the *Zoological Record* was based upon the generic name *Osmerus* Linnaeus, the fact that this was not so stated by Regan on this occasion—and in view of the circumstances in which this name was published could hardly have been stated—must be taken as invalidating this name as published in the manner discussed above. That this is so must be regarded as satisfactory, for no more unsuitable place in which to publish a new name than the *Zoological Record* could be imagined.

4. The next occasion when the name OSMERIDAE appeared was again in 1913 and once again Regan was the author. This was in a paper entitled "The Antarctic Fishes of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition" (*Trans. Roy. Soc. Edinb.* 49 : 290).

5. In order to complete the action needed to correct and amplify the Ruling given in *Opinion* 77, it is recommended that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should:—

- (1) place the under-mentioned family-group name on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology*:—OSMERIDAE Regan (C.T.), 1913 (reference as in paragraph 4 above) (type genus: *Osmerus* Linnaeus, 1758);
- (2) place the under-mentioned family-group name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology*:—OSMERIDAE Regan (C.T.), 1913 (reference as in paragraph 3 above) (invalid because not accompanied by a statement as to the name of the type genus of the family-group taxon so named).

**SUPPORT FOR DR. L. B. HOLTHUIS'S PROPOSAL RELATING  
TO THE GENERIC NAME "PAGURUS" FABRICIUS, 1775 (CLASS  
CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA)**

By JANET HAIG  
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(Commission Reference : Z.N.(S.) 859)

(For the proposal submitted see 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 11 : 307—321)

(Letter dated 6th April, 1956)

I wish to register with the Commission my support of the discussion and proposal of L. B. Holthuis, which forms Part III (paragraphs 23—26) of his joint application with J. Forest for a decision regarding the status of the generic name *Pagurus* Fabricius, 1775 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 11 : 307—321, 1955).

The facts of the case as stated in Part I of this proposal (pp. 307—313), and as earlier set forth by Walton and Stevens (*Bull. S. Calif. Acad. Sci.* 54 : 40—42, 1955), make it clear that "Solution I" of the proposal, that advocated by Holthuis, is correct according to the strict application of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature. Adoption of "Solution III" (: 310), advocated by Forest, would necessitate the use of the Plenary Powers of the Commission to suppress the generic name *Pagurus* Fabricius, 1775.

I agree with Holthuis that it would be undesirable to suppress a name which is in common use for the type genus of a family and other categories and which is the root of many genera of hermit crabs, and that to follow this course would not necessarily solve the problem of the ambiguity attached to the name. Furthermore, as Forest suggests in Part II of the joint application (paragraphs 18—22), should the Commission suppress *Pagurus* Fabricius, 1775, it might at the same time find it necessary to suppress the name PAGURIDAE for the family. This, in my opinion, would be a most unfortunate result if Forest's solution of the problem should be adopted.

For the foregoing reasons I should prefer to see the adoption by the Commission of "Solution I" (: 310) as advocated by Holthuis.